

## Written Testimony for Bill HB 5372

My name is Adam Glassman. I live in Orange, Connecticut. I fully support HB 5372, An Act Concerning Dyslexia Instruction Offered in Teacher Preparation Programs.

I am a student at Amity Middle School. I am 13 years old and in eighth grade. I am dyslexic. In the summer before I entered fourth grade, I got a special teacher to help me with my reading and writing skills. Before that, school was always challenging. I had a hard time learning how to read and I hated writing. My worst years were fourth and fifth grade. My teachers didn't understand my disability and I would get in trouble for not finishing my work on time. The teachers thought when I advocated for myself I was being rude. They said I couldn't finish my work because of my behavior. It was like they thought I wanted to struggle and not complete my work. Who would want to fail? In fifth grade my teachers even put me on a behavior plan. Even my special education teacher didn't understand me. She didn't believe in dyslexia and she didn't help me at all. One of the paras even called me lazy. In sixth grade the teachers were much better but they still don't truly understand me. I got a new special education teacher. She was much better than my other special education teacher because she has some training about dyslexia. She seems to understand me more. She tried to help me and give me what I needed to succeed. Even though she understands dyslexia, she was not trained in the proper interventions for dyslexic students, like my tutor was. My tutor was trained in Orton Gillingham, a program to teach dyslexic children like me. I wish all schools had teachers trained in Orton Gillingham, so all dyslexic kids could get the proper help! When I started 7<sup>th</sup> grade, I went to middle school. The school took away my Orton Gillingham tutor. The teachers try to help me but they don't have the same training as my tutor. I can tell that the teacher doesn't plan lessons the same way my tutor did. It seems like I am always playing catch up. I wish I had the instruction that once helped me. My mom keeps requesting it, but the school keeps turning her down. I haven't made progress in reading in almost two years. Next year I go to High School and I am worried that I will never catch up. If my teachers understood how to teach me and recognize my dyslexia in kindergarten, they could have helped me earlier.

If teachers were trained in college, schools wouldn't have pay for teachers to get the training. Teachers would start knowing how to help kids like me. I wish my teachers could help me with reading the way I need to be taught. Teachers being trained in college would save students like me from falling behind.

Please pass HB 5372, to assure teachers have the training they need before they graduate from college. Please give dyslexic kids a chance to succeed!